



CITY OF DETROIT  
LAW DEPARTMENT

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
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February 14, 2019

Katlyn Alapati  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 68501  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request No. A19-01025, Dated February 5, 2019,  
Concerning City of Detroit Records Pertaining to Property Maintenance  
Complaint Records**

Dear Ms. Alapati:

This letter serves as the City of Detroit's response to the above-referenced matter. Your request was received at the City of Detroit Law Department Freedom of Information Act Section, via email, on February 5, 2019. Because your request was received by electronic transmission, pursuant to Section 5(1) of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (the "Act"), MCL 15.235(1); it is deemed to have been received at the Law Department on the next business day, February 6, 2019. In accordance with Section 5(2)(d) of the Act, MCL 15.235(2)(d), we sent a letter extending the City's time to respond until February 28, 2019.

You request:

The data, or full database, of property maintenance complaint records from 2009 until present day (5 February 2019) that includes— but is not limited to—the address of the property being complained about, a description of the issue, date of complaint, parcel ID, property owner, and the status of BSEED's response to the complaint (if available). I can accept this data in its database or in an exported spreadsheet format, such as a CSV.

Based upon information provided from the City of Detroit Buildings, Safety, Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED), they estimate that the search and retrieval of the requested record will require five (5) hours of staff time at an hourly rate of \$41.24 (\$30.00 per hour + \$11.24 in fringe benefits [ 37.5% of \$41.24]). Consequently, to conduct the search, the City will incur approximately TWO HUNDRED SIX and 20/100 Dollars (\$206.20). Therefore, should you wish to proceed with this request, we require that you submit a deposit payment in the amount of one-half (1/2) of the total estimated labor cost, in accordance with Section 4(8) of the Act, MCL 15.234 (8). Accordingly, please forward a check or money order in the amount of ONE HUNDRED THREE and 10/100 (\$103.10), made payable to the "**City of Detroit**" to my attention no later than April 4, 2019. Please note that we do not accept cash payments. *Please note that if we are not in receipt of your deposit by the above-referenced date, we shall consider your request abandoned and close our file on this request, pursuant to MCL 15.234(14).*



Katlyn Alapati  
February 14, 2019  
Page 2

In addition, please note that due to the large scope of the request, it is estimated that it will take approximately one (1) week to complete the search and retrieval portion of your request. Upon receipt of your deposit, in accordance with MCL 15.234(1) and (3), we will request the BSEED to commence its search and retrieval of the records. After the completion of the search, the City of Detroit Law Department personnel must review the record to separate the exempt from the non-exempt portions of the record, if any.

Unfortunately, until we receive the records from the BSEED, we would be unable to provide the estimate for the amount of time it will take to complete the review and redaction process. Once we are in receipt of the records from the BSEED, we will be able to provide you with a second deposit letter reflecting our conservative estimate of the remaining time and expense it will take to redact the records before we can provide you with an opportunity to obtain copies or inspect them.

Once we receive your second deposit payment for the review and redaction portion of your request, in accordance with MCL 15.234(1) and (3), we will begin the redaction process. Once that has been completed, we will provide you with a supplemental written response outlining the information that has been exempted from the record; legal authority for each exemption; and the final cost for you to obtain a copy of the record.

Please note that pursuant to Section 10 and 10a of the Act, MCL 15.240 and 15.240a, a person receiving a written denial of a request or receiving a letter to submit the labor costs may do one of the following:

- 1) Submit a written appeal to the head of the public body denying the request. Such appeal, if submitted, should specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial. MCL 15.240(1)(a) and MCL 15.240a(1)(a); or
- 2) Commence an action in the circuit court to compel the disclosure of the public records within 180 days after the public body's denial of the request, MCL 15.240(1)(b), or 45 days after the public body's request for labor costs, MCL 15.240a(1)(b). If a court finds that the information withheld by a public body is not exempt from disclosure, or that the labor costs requested by the public body exceeds the amount permitted, the requesting party may receive the requested record and, at the discretion of the court, reasonable attorney fees and /or cost. MCL 15.240(6) and (7), and MCL 15.240a(6) and (7).



Katlyn Alapati  
February 14, 2019  
Page 3

When contacting our office regarding this request, please include the request number listed in the subject line above. **For your information, please note that a public summary of City of Detroit FOIA procedures and guidelines is available on the City's website, [www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov), under "How Do I . . ." and "File".**

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Levasseur'.

Kathryn M. Levasseur  
Assistant Corporation Counsel  
FOIA Section  
Phone: 313-237-3034  
Email: [levasseurk@detroitmi.gov](mailto:levasseurk@detroitmi.gov)

## FOIA FEE ESTIMATE pursuant to MCL 15.234(8)

pursuant to MCL 15.234(4),  
effective January 1, 2016

File Number: A19-01025

Line	Reference	Component	Amount	Subtotal	Total
1	§ 4(2)	Fringe benefit multiplier rate, maximum 50%	37.490%		
2	§ 4(1)(a)	Labor for searching & examining to fulfill request			
3		hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of work	\$30.00		
4		fringe benefit multiplier @ 37.49%	137.5%		
5	Dept.	modified hourly wage = line 3* line 4	\$41.24		
6		number of hours, rounded down to .25 increment	5		
7		line 5 multiplied by line 6		\$206.20	
8		hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of work			
9		fringe benefit multiplier @ 37.49%	137.5%		
10	Dept.	modified hourly wage = line 8* line 9			
11		number of hours, rounded down to .25 increment			
12		line 10 multiplied by line 11			
13		Estimated Total - Labor for searching & examining			\$206.20
14	§ 4(1)(b)	Labor for reviewing and redacting			
15		hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of work			
16		fringe benefit multiplier @ 37.49%	137.5%		
17		modified hourly wage = line 15* line 16			
18		number of hours, rounded down to .25 increment			
19		line 17 multiplied by line 18			
20		Estimated Total - Labor for reviewing and redacting			\$0.00
21	§ 4(1)(e)	Labor for duplicating			
22		hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of work			
23		fringe benefit multiplier @ 37.49%	137.5%		
24	Dept.	modified hourly wage = line 22* line 23			
25		Number of hours, rounded down to next increment			
26		line 24 multiplied by line 25			
27		hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of work			
28		fringe benefit multiplier @ 37.49%	137.5%		
29	Dept.	Rev			
30		Number of hours, rounded down to next increment			
31		line 29 multiplied by line 30			
32		Estimated Total - Labor for duplicating			\$0.00
33		Estimated TOTAL Labor costs - sum of lines 13, 20, and 32:			\$206.20
34	§ 4(9)	Reduction in labor costs for late written response			
35		number of business days late	0		
36		reduction at 5% / day = 0.05 x line 35	0%		
37		maximum reduction	50%		
38		lesser of line 36 or line 37	0%		
39		Reduced amount = line 38 x line 33			\$0.00
40		Estimated Amount Chargeable for Labor Costs, after applicable reduction:			\$206.20

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FEE ESTIMATE

File Number: A19-01025

<b>40</b>	<b>Estimated Amount Chargeable for Labor Costs, after applicable reduction (copied from page 1):</b>	<b>\$206.20</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>§ 4(1)(d) Estimated cost of paper copies</b>	
42	number of 8½ x 11 or 8½ x 14 sheets	
43	price for 8½ x 11 or 8½ x 14 sheets	\$0.10
44	line 42 multiplied by line 43	
45	color or other size copies, size: ____ x ____	
46	actual price per page	
47	line 45 multiplied by line 46	
48	color or other size copies, size: ____ x ____	
49	actual price per page	
50	line 48 multiplied by line 49	
<b>51</b>	<b>Total - estimated cost of paper copies</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>§ 4(1)(c) Estimated cost of electronic media</b>	
53	Number of CD's @ \$1.00	
54	Number of Flash Drives	
55	Number of Tapes	
56	Other:	
57	Sum of lines 53 - 56	
<b>58</b>	<b>Total - estimated cost of electronic media</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>Estimated Costs of paper copies and electronic media - sum of lines 51 and 58:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>§ 4(1)(f) Estimated cost of mailing</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>§ 4(2) Reduction for indigency or qualifying non-profit</b>	
<b>62</b>	Affidavit/information provided: Y/N?	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>Estimated Net Charge after any reductions, but not less than zero - sum of lines 40, 59, 60, and 62:</b>	<b>\$206.20</b>
<b>64</b>	<b>MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR DEPOSIT - 50% of line 63, but only if line 63 exceeds \$50.00:</b>	<b>\$103.10</b>
65	Sum of deposits, previous payments, other credits:	
<b>66</b>	<b>CREDIT - for deposits and other previous payments:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>67</b>	<b>DEPOSIT REQUIRED - Line 64 offset by line 66, but not less than zero:</b>	<b>\$103.10</b>